

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, and 12 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled or added by virtue of this response. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In the latest Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 6 for informalities. This claim has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. As such, Applicants believe the objection to claims 6 has been overcome.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 11 and 12 for failing to define the term "the means" or "the recited means." These claims have been amended to recite "each of the recited means". These amendments are believed to overcome the claim objections.

Section 112 Rejection of Claims 1-5

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, claim 1 is rejected for failing to define how the peak values are accumulated. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein a plurality of first peak values are accumulated by the repetition of steps (c)-(g)." This claim amendment is believed to overcome the indefiniteness rejection to the claims.

Section 112 Rejection of Claims 6-9

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 6 is rejected for failing to define how the plurality of time values are produced. Claims 6 has been amended to recite "wherein a plurality of time values are produced by the repetition of steps (c)-(g)." This claim amendment is believed to overcome the indefiniteness rejection to the claims.

Section 112 Rejection of Claims 10-14

Claims 10-14 recite the limitation "means for repeating the process using the new correlated signal, if a comparison of the threshold value with the correlated signal produces a first comparison result, thereby accumulating a plurality of peak values." Claim 10 is rejected for insufficient antecedent basis for this claim limitation. Claim 10 has now been amended in order to overcome this claim rejection.

Section 103(a) Rejection of claims 1-5 and 10-14

Claims 1, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rick et al. (US 2003/0081662) in view of Glazko et al. (US 2004/0161022). Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rick et al. (US 2003/0081662) in view of Motoyoshi et al. (US 2004/0156426). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rick et al. (US 2003/0081662) in view of Glazko et al. (US 2004/0161022) as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Motoyoshi et al. (US 2004/0156426). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rick et al. (US 2003/0081662) in view of Glazko et al. (US 2004/0161022) as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Ertel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,149,980). These claim rejections are traversed as follows.

It is noted that claim 6 has not been substantively rejected under Section 102 or Section 103, and is therefore believed to be allowable, notwithstanding the rejection under Section 112.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include limitations recited in independent claim 6. More specifically, independent claims 1 and 10 now recite "a received signal comprising one or more reflected signals and a line-of-sight signal" and "wherein the smallest of the time values represents the arrival time of the line-of-sight signal." Claims 1 and 10 as amended recite similar subject matter as recited in claim 6. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over the alleged prior art.

Claims 2-5 and 11-14 depend from claims 1 and 10 respectively, and are believed to be patentable for at least the reason they depend from an allowable base claim.

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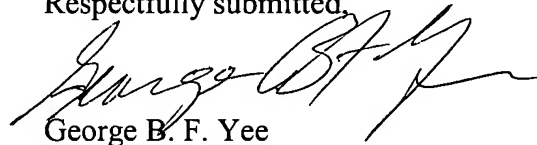
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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